UNITED NATIONS

NINTH
UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS
ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME
AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Cairo, Egypt, 29 April – 8 May 1995

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INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. BACKGROUND

1. In its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, entitled "Creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme", the General Assembly stipulated that "The United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders ... shall provide a forum for:

"(a) The exchange of views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines;

"(b) The exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development;

"(c) The identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice;

"(d) The provision of advice and comments to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on selected matters submitted to it by the Commission; and

"(e) The submission of suggestions, for the consideration of the Commission, regarding possible subjects for the programme of work."

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/157 of 23 December 1994, called upon the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to formulate concrete recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the United Nations activities and mechanisms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, taking into account the recommendations made by the regional preparatory meetings and paying particular attention to the operational activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The Assembly also requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give priority attention at its fourth session, to be held at Vienna from 30 May to 9 June 1995, to the conclusions of the Ninth Congress with a view to recommending appropriate follow-up action.

3. The United Nations quinquennial congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders have a long tradition, tracing their origin to the international penitentiary congresses that had been organized by the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission (IPPC) since the nineteenth century. The General Assembly, in its resolution 415 (V), authorized the transfer of the functions of the IPPC to the United Nations, and approved a plan whereby the United Nations would undertake, *inter alia*, to convene every five

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years an international congress similar to those previously organized by the IPPC, which would provide a forum for discussions of priority concerns by policy makers, administrators, academicians and other professionals in the field.

4. The First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was held at Geneva in 1955; the Second Congress, with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland acting as host, was held in London in 1960; the Third Congress, with the Government of Sweden acting as host, was held at Stockholm in 1965; the Fourth Congress, with the Government of Japan acting as host, was held at Kyoto in 1970; the Fifth Congress was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in 1975; the Sixth Congress, with the Government of Venezuela acting as host, was held at Caracas in 1980; the Seventh Congress, with the Government of Italy acting as host, was held at Milan in 1985; and the Eighth Congress, with the Government of Cuba acting as host, was held at Havana in 1990.

5. These intergovernmental forums have served as a stimulus for work in the criminal justice field and the interest they have generated over the years has increased considerably. The First Congress was attended by 61 countries and territories, while the Eighth Congress was attended by approximately 1,500 participants, including representatives of 127 Governments with 37 ministers of justice and/or the interior and 48 attorneys-general and/or chief justices. The Eighth Congress discussed international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, alternatives to imprisonment, organized crime, terrorism, juvenile justice and human rights standards. It recommended for adoption by the General Assembly the Model Treaty on Extradition (General Assembly resolution 45/116, annex); the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, with its Optional Protocol concerning the proceeds of crime (General Assembly resolution 45/117, annex); and the Model Treaty on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (General Assembly resolution 45/118, annex). Other instruments, standards and norms recommended for adoption included the Model Treaty on the Transfer of Supervision of Offenders Conditionally Sentenced or Conditionally Released (General Assembly resolution 45/119, annex); the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules) (General Assembly resolution 45/110); the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (General Assembly resolution 45/111, annex); the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) (General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex); the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (General Assembly resolution 45/113, annex); the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;[1] Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors;[2] and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.[3]

6. On the basis of recommendations of the Eighth Congress, the Secretariat initiated new studies and research, providing technical assistance to countries on request, and developing policy options in a number of areas, including expansion of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network so as to render additional services to an increased membership and to develop new international databases; effective law enforcement and international cooperation against transnational crime; improved criminal justice management through the application of modern managerial techniques and technological developments, such as computerization; training and education in crime prevention and criminal justice; the role of criminal law in the protection of nature and the environment; computer-related crimes; measures against organized and economic crime, including corruption; implementation of model treaties, including enabling legislation for inter-State cooperation in criminal justice matters; furtherance of a more appropriate and humane administration of prisons, with emphasis on the observance of prisoners' rights and on the treatment of special categories of prisoners, such as those in pre-trial detention, those serving life sentences, those infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), women prisoners and young prisoners; protection of the human rights of and redress for victims of crime and abuse of power; formulation of guidelines or a manual concerning the problem of domestic violence and the exploitation and use of children for criminal activities; technical cooperation and assistance in the implementation of United Nations norms and guidelines, including needs assessment, project formulation and execution; and professional training and other contributions to major United Nations peace-keeping operations.

7. The increased mandates of the United Nations in this field, as well as the growing recognition of the importance of international cooperation, led to further calls by Member States for a strengthened United Nations programme in crime prevention and criminal justice, with resources commensurate to the work to be undertaken. A review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in this field, which had been initiated at the Seventh Congress, culminated in the establishment, in February 1992, of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice by the Economic and Social Council (Council resolution 1992/1 of 6 February 1992), as one of its functional commissions. The Commission has, among its many functions, that of being the preparatory body for the Congress. The Ninth United Nations Congress is the first congress to be held after the establishment of the Commission, as well as the first to be held on the African continent.

II. DATE AND PLACE

8. The Ninth Congress will be held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995 inclusive, with the Government of Egypt acting as host. Pre-Congress consultations will be held for one day before the official opening of the Congress, on 28 April 1995.

9. The Congress will be held at the Cairo International Conference Centre, Nasr Road, Nasr City, Cairo (telephone: (00202) 263 4637, 263 4632, 263 4673 and 263 4645; facsimile: (00202) 263 4640).

10. The Conference Centre comprises a large meeting hall (Cheops Hall) which will accommodate the plenary meetings. It has two additional halls, which will accommodate the meetings of the committees, and several other smaller halls that can be used for the meetings of regional groups and non-governmental organizations. The three main halls provide simultaneous interpretation services in six languages, as well as all voting, recording and other electronic facilities. The Centre also has other conference facilities, such as a press centre, coffee shops and cafeterias, a large reception hall to accommodate 3,000 people, telex, telephone and telefax services, medical care, and banking and postal services etc. The journey between the Conference Centre and the centre of Cairo takes approximately 25-45 minutes, depending on the time of day and traffic conditions; between the centre and Cairo International Airport the journey takes approximately 30-40 minutes.

A. Pre-Congress consultations

11. In accordance with established practice for major United Nations conferences, and in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 49/157, the Ninth Congress will be preceded by pre-Congress consultations open to all participating States. These consultations will be held on 28 April 1995, at the Cairo International Conference Centre. The purpose is to reach agreement on the recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Congress, such as the election of officers and composition of the General Committee, the distribution of posts between the regional groups in the General Committee, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of members of the Credentials Committee and the arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Congress.

B. Seating arrangements

12. At the opening of the Congress and at subsequent meetings of the plenary in the Cheops Hall, each government delegation will be assigned four seats, two at the table plus two in the row behind. Specifically identified seating facilities will be available for other participants in the Congress.

13. In the Chefren and Mycerinos Halls, each national delegation will have one seat at the table and one in the row behind.

III. GENERAL THEME AND AGENDA

14. The general theme of the Congress, as decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/157, is "Less crime, more justice: security for all". Under this theme, four major topics are on the provisional agenda of the Congress (see table below), which was approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Topic No.	*Item No. on the agenda*	*Title of topic*
I	3	International cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law: promoting the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme
II	4	Action against national and transnational economic and organized crime, and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment: national experiences and international cooperation
III	5	Criminal justice and police systems: management and improvement of police and other law enforcement agencies, prosecution, courts, corrections, and the role of lawyers
IV	6	Crime prevention strategies, in particular as related to crimes in urban areas and juvenile and violent criminality, including the question of victims: assessment and new perspectives

15. The Council also endorsed the proposal to hold six demonstration and research workshops, which would form an integral part of the programme of the Ninth Congress, on the following topics: (a) extradition and international cooperation: exchange of national experience and implementation of relevant principles in national legislation (one day); (b) mass media and crime prevention (one day); (c) urban policy and crime prevention (one day); (d) prevention of violent crime (one day); (e) environmental protection at the national and international levels: potentials and limits of criminal justice (two days); and (f) international cooperation and assistance in the management of the criminal justice system: computerization of criminal justice operations and the development, analysis and policy use of criminal justice information (two days). The Council further decided that, within the framework of the plenary of the Congress, a one-day discussion should be held on experiences in practical measures aimed at combating corruption involving public officials.

16. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/19 of 25 July 1994, Member States and relevant bodies held consultations at Vienna, on 19 January 1995, on possible technical cooperation projects to be considered during the workshops. It is expected that a number of suggestions will emerge from each of the workshops for new technical cooperation and other joint initiatives, on the basis of the recommendations of the consultations. Accordingly, Member States and relevant bodies will have the opportunity to announce their commitment to sponsoring such projects after the Ninth Congress. A technical cooperation session will also be held by the plenary of the Congress.

17. A proposed timetable for the work of the Congress will be circulated for consideration by the Congress in document A/CONF.169/3, and the programme of meetings will be printed in the *Journal*, to be issued on a daily basis, giving details about the conference rooms and times of meetings.

IV. PARTICIPATION

18. In accordance with the provisional rules of procedure for United Nations Congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders (A/CONF.169/2), as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1993/32, annex, the following categories of participants will take part in the Congress:

(a) Representatives of States, officially designated by their Governments, the credentials for whom are to be issued by the head of State or Government or by the minister for foreign affairs;

(b) Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly;

(c) Representatives of United Nations organs and related agencies;

(d) Observers designated by other intergovernmental organizations;

(e) Observers designated by non-governmental organizations;

(f) Individual experts in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders invited by the Secretary-General to participate as observers in their individual capacity;

(g) Expert consultants invited by the Secretary-General;

(h) Officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

19. Experts who wish to participate are advised to communicate their interest to the Executive Secretary of the Congress (see paragraph 22 below for the address).

V. COSTS OF PARTICIPATION

20. All costs of participation will be the responsibility of participating Governments for their delegations, of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their representatives and of individuals for their own participation. However, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/19 and General Assembly resolution 49/157, the United Nations will bear the costs of travel and subsistence for one representative from each of the least developed countries.

VI. REGISTRATION

21. Admission to the Conference Centre will require the presentation of identification cards at all times. All participants in the Congress - Government representatives, United Nations Secretariat staff, and representatives of United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, of accredited intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and individual experts - are therefore required to register in the Congress registration area.

22. The process of registration will be greatly facilitated if conference credentials containing lists of the names of participants are transmitted by each delegation prior to actual registration in person. It is suggested that delegations submit this information (full name, title, address, telephone and facsimile numbers) well

before the opening of the Congress, and preferably not later than one week before the Congress begins, to the Executive Secretary of the Ninth Congress at the following address:

Mr. Eduardo Vetere
Executive Secretary
Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and
the Treatment of Offenders
Chief, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch
United Nations Office at Vienna
P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Telephone: (0043-1) 21131 ext. 4272 or 4269 or 5278
Direct telephone: (0043-1) 237 493
Facsimile: (0043-1) 209 2599
Telex: 135 612

23. The loss of an identification card must be reported immediately to United Nations Security personnel.

24. Inquiries regarding the Congress may also be addressed to the Executive Secretary at the above-given address.

VII. DOCUMENTATION

25. The Secretariat of the United Nations is preparing a working paper on each of the substantive topics on the provisional agenda of the Ninth Congress, as well as background papers on the workshops. These documents will form the basis for discussion by identifying and describing the issues, indicating the priorities and concerns of States and defining the major issues involved. In addition, the Congress will have before it other documents, such as the reports of the regional preparatory meetings.

26. Official documents of the Congress will be made available in the languages of the Congress.

VIII. PREPARATORY MEETINGS

27. Five regional preparatory meetings of Government representatives for the Ninth Congress were held in the different regions of the world, between January and March 1994, each dealing from a regional perspective with all the agenda items and the six workshops. Reports of all the meetings are available as official United Nations documents (A/CONF.169/RPM.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1, A/CONF.169/RPM.2, A/CONF.169/RPM.3 and Corr.1, A/CONF.169/RPM.4 and A/CONF.169/RPM.5), as well as the discussion guide for the Ninth Congress (A/CONF.169/PM.1) and the discussion guide on demonstration and research workshops (A/CONF.169/PM.1/Add.1).

IX. CIRCULATION OF PREPARED STATEMENTS AND PAPERS

28. A minimum of 30 copies and, if possible, a copy on diskette of the text of speeches to be delivered in plenary meetings and meetings of the Committees of the Whole should be given in advance to the conference officer in order to enable the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.

29. Written statements and national position papers prepared by participating States will be distributed at the Congress in the languages and quantities provided. Delegations wishing to circulate their speeches to all participants are requested to provide 350 copies to the conference officer (there will be one in each conference room). All texts should be delivered before the speaker takes the floor, preferably at the start of the meeting. If written texts are provided in more than one official language, delegations should indicate clearly which of those texts is to be accepted as the official text. Furthermore, in order to avoid confusion, delegations should also specify whether this official text is to be "checked against delivery" or read out as written.

30. Assurance of reproduction facilities at the Congress site ***cannot be guaranteed***. It is strongly recommended that sufficient quantities should be brought or shipped to the Congress site by the participants. The Secretariat regrets that it is unable to provide typing or copying facilities for participants. Participants are requested to refrain from asking the secretariat to type, duplicate or translate papers or statements. With a view to ensuring wide distribution of the national papers to Government representatives and observers at the Congress, it is suggested that the following minimum numbers of copies be provided:

Language	*No. of copies*
English only	500
English plus French or Spanish	325 copies in English; balance in French or Spanish
English plus Arabic	325 copies in English; balance in Arabic
English plus French and Spanish	275 copies in English; balance in French and Spanish
English plus Russian	325 copies in English; balance in Russian
English plus Chinese	325 copies in English; balance in Chinese

31. The specialized agencies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may also prepare background information on specific questions pertaining to the subject matter under consideration.

32. Two information copies of all national statements and/or position papers and papers prepared by Governments or observers should be submitted as soon as possible to the United Nations Secretariat.

Distribution of official documents

33. The main documents distribution counter will be located at the Delegates Entrance Hall in the Conference Centre. Each delegation will be assigned an individual box at the documents distribution counter, in which all documents issued during the Conference will be placed. To determine exact requirements, each delegation is requested to advise the documents distribution counter of its daily requirements in terms of the number of copies of each document and the language(s) in which it wishes to receive them during the Congress. The quantity requested should be sufficient to cover all requirements, since it will not be possible to provide complete sets of documents after the end of the Congress.

X. LANGUAGES

34. The official languages of the Ninth Congress are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

XI. MEDIA ACTIVITIES

35. Regular United Nations press and other media facilities will be available at the Congress. Journalists wishing to cover the Congress should apply for accreditation from the United Nations Headquarters, New York until 29 March 1995, and thereafter to the United Nations Information Centre at Cairo. All media inquiries should be addressed to one of the following:

Information Officer
Ninth United Nations Congress on the
Prevention of Crime and the
Treatment of Offenders
DPI Development and Human Rights Section
Room S-1040 United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017, USA

Telephone: (212) 963 5851
Facsimile: (212) 963 4556

Ms. Hadayet Abdel Nabi, National Information Officer
Ninth United Nations Congress on the
Prevention of Crime and the
Treatment of Offenders
United Nations Information Centre
P.O. Box 262
Cairo, Egypt

Telephone: (00202) 769 595
Facsimile: (00202) 769393

Press Centre

36. The Press Centre established for the duration of the Congress will be located on the ground floor of the Conference Centre. The area will include a press working area, press briefing rooms, documents distribution for members of the press, limited video and radio recording and editing studios, and, on a commercial basis, facilities for telephone, facsimile and telex, and photocopying.

XII. NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

37. The Government of Egypt has established a National Organizing Committee that is responsible for all the activities at the national level, as well as the contacts with the United Nations and other bodies. The Committee is headed by the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Adel El Safty, who is responsible for substantive and organizational matters (telephone: (00202) 574 9848; facsimile: (00202) 574 9808). Organizational arrangements and conference services are being dealt with by the Department of International Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (telephone: (00202) 574 8440 or 574 9635; facsimile: (00202) 574 9726). Further contact numbers are: Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (telephone: (00202) 574 9727; facsimile: (00202) 574 9686); Ministry of Justice (substantive matters) (telephone: (00202) 354 5976; facsimile: (00202) 355 5700); Ministry of Tourism (telephone: (00202) 282 9772; facsimile: (00202) 283 1318); Ministry of Interior (telephone: (00202) 355 3870); Cairo International Conference Centre (telephone: (00202) 263 4637; facsimile: (00202) 263 4640).

XIII. VISA REQUIREMENTS

38. Participants requiring visas are requested to contact the nearest Egyptian Embassy or Consulate. Visa applications should be accompanied by a copy of the official invitation from the United Nations.

XIV. CURRENCY EXCHANGE

39. There are bank branches and currency exchange offices at the Cairo International Airport, the hotels and the Cairo International Conference Centre, as well as in various locations throughout Cairo. The banks accept major international currencies which are convertible to Egyptian pounds and vice versa. There are no restrictions on transfers. Credit cards are also accepted by major hotels and restaurants as well as by many shops.

XV. HOTEL RESERVATIONS

40. The National Organizing Committee has appointed KARNAK as the official travel agent at Cairo for hotel reservations and transportation requests for those delegations wishing to take advantage of this service. The contact person of KARNAK at Cairo is Mrs. Ragaa Ahmed Abdel Rahman, telephone number: (00202) 575 0600, 575 0729 or 575 0957; facsimile number: (00202) 76 2744 or 575 08 48. The United Nations Secretariat regrets that it is unable to assist in any way with participants' hotel accommodation or travel requests and that such requests should be addressed directly to the KARNAK travel agency.

41. The National Organizing Committee will also issue a brochure containing information on Cairo, the Conference Centre and its facilities, historic interest sites, as well as other information that will be useful to participants. Copies of the brochure will be made available through the United Nations Secretariat in New York, the Secretariat of the Congress at Vienna and the Permanent Mission of Egypt in New York, and will also be distributed to Embassies at Cairo.

XVI. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Reception on arrival

42. Participants who have forwarded their flight details (day, flight number, time of arrival at Cairo) to the National Organizing Committee will be welcomed by liaison staff at the airport and directed to special Congress desks where they will be informed about arrangements for immigration, customs, baggage handling and transportation to hotels. Currency exchange will be available at the airport.

43. On their arrival, delegates with the rank of Minister will be escorted by Egyptian personnel to a special lounge; only one guest for each visiting Minister will be admitted.

44. A special bus shuttle service between airport and hotels will be available, as well as an ample supply of taxis.

Electricity

45. Electrical current throughout Egypt is 220 volts (50 cycles). Sockets take the standard continental European round-pronged plug. Plug adapters and currency converters or alternating dual voltage appliances may be needed.

Climate

46. The weather in Cairo during April and May is usually moderate with occasional periods of humidity during the day, and cooler in the evenings, but it is not unusual to experience hot weather during these months.

Notes

[1]*Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B, resolution 2.

[2]Ibid., sect. C, resolution 26.

[3]Ibid., sect. B, resolution 3.